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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-seventh special session*

Geneva, 22 March 2013

Introduction

The twenty-seventh special session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 22 March 2013. In the course of the session, the Board held one plenary meeting, the 1098th.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

A. Venue of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2016

Decision 517 (S-XXVII)

The Trade and Development Board warmly welcomes the generous offer of Peru to host the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV) in 2016.

1098th plenary meeting
22 March 2013

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-seventh special session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 22 March 2013. It will appear in final form, together with the reports on the fifty-sixth executive session, the fifty-seventh executive session, the fifty-eighth executive session and the sixtieth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/68/15).

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B. Other action taken by the Board

Presidency of the Trade and Development Board

At the fifty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board in September 2012, member States elected two Presidents to share the one-year term of the Presidency of the Board. During the Board's 1098th plenary meeting, on 22 March 2013, after six months in the function the outgoing President, Mr. Jüri Seilenthal of Estonia, handed over stewardship of the Board to his successor, Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi of Kazakhstan, to serve as the President of the Board for the remaining six months of the one-year term. Mr. Seilenthal assumed the function of Vice-President vacated by Mr. Tileuberdi to complete the membership of the Bureau of the Board.

II. President's summary

A. Opening statement

1. The session began with an opening statement at the special session made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

2. The Secretary-General underscored the challenges that UNCTAD would be facing in the years preceding the next ministerial conference in 2016. Among these challenges, he underscored that UNCTAD would continue to advocate for policies and measures to achieve more inclusive and sustainable growth for the world economy. The financial crisis had brought about an important reassessment of the prevailing development discourse. Many previously held tenets of development economics, including the wisdom of financial deregulation and liberalization, were being questioned and rethought such that many of UNCTAD's policy positions previously considered "unorthodox" had made it into mainstream thinking. Noting the value of UNCTAD's policy advice, as borne out by the evidence, he expressed hope that UNCTAD could make a key contribution to the formulation of a new development paradigm, for which the Doha Mandate which was agreed at UNCTAD XIII provided an initial outline.

3. The next two years would see an intense debate over the shape of the post-2015 development agenda, which was likely to be in place by UNCTAD XIV and for which the secretariat had already initiated a preparatory process and established task forces and a high-level panel to continue to feed into the debate. In this respect, UNCTAD had been making contributions over recent years, for example, by arguing that the future development agenda should pay greater attention to building productive capacities which were needed to sustain social development and pointing out that future goals should address inequality.

4. Finally, UNCTAD's fiftieth anniversary in 2014 would be an excellent opportunity to highlight the achievements of UNCTAD to its stakeholders and the wider public and to deliberate on its future potential contributions to development, as well as to identify UNCTAD's shortcomings and measures to address them in order to bring UNCTAD to its full potential. An equilibrium between the retrospective and the prospective would make the fiftieth anniversary celebration successful and serve to contribute to the broader development discourse and UNCTAD XIV.

B. Venue of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2016

(Agenda item 2)

5. At the plenary meeting, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar, President of UNCTAD XIII, made a statement on the offer of Peru to host UNCTAD XIV. He shared insights into the challenges for the next host country based on Qatar's experience with UNCTAD XIII in Doha and in the context of UNCTAD's fiftieth anniversary and the post-2015 development agenda.

6. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Government of Peru made a statement recalling Peru's experience with UNCTAD beginning with the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964. He stated Peru's support of the three pillars of UNCTAD's and commitment to sustainable development and social inclusion. He noted that the agenda for UNCTAD XIV would be built on the basis of the consensus of all member States, and focus on strengthening UNCTAD's role in the face of the challenges of sustainable development and the international context, including the analysis to be undertaken by member States in the lead up to the fiftieth anniversary and the post-2015 development agenda. He also presented a brief, informative film on Peru.

7. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Peru, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; the representative of the European Union; the representative of Ethiopia, speaking on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Hungary, speaking on behalf of Group D; the representative of Benin, speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Turkey, speaking on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of China; the representative of Mexico; and the representative of Indonesia.

8. All speakers welcomed the candidature of Peru to host UNCTAD XIV and expressed their appreciation and support. The Trade and Development Board unanimously approved the decision to recommend to the General Assembly to accept the offer of Peru to host UNCTAD XIV in 2016.

C. Presidency of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 3)

9. The outgoing President of the Board made a statement regarding his tenure, noting his work with member States on the four subthemes of the Doha Mandate. He then formally handed over stewardship of the Presidency to the incoming President.

10. Statements were made by the representative of Hungary, speaking on behalf of Group D; the representative of the European Union; the representative of Turkey, speaking on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; and the representative of Peru, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

11. The incoming President made a statement regarding two priorities for the Trade and Development Board in the following six months, namely, the need to complete the terms of reference for the individual sessions of the multi-year expert meetings and to reach consensus on how to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD. He informed member States that Kazakhstan would organize an event in celebration of UNCTAD's fifty years of contribution to trade and development within the framework of the Astana Economic Forum in 2014.

12. All speakers thanked the outgoing President for his service in this role and congratulated and expressed their support to the incoming President of the Board.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

13. The plenary session was opened by Mr. Jüri Seilenthal (Estonia), outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board.

B. Adoption of the agenda

(Agenda item 1)

14. The Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B(S-XXVII)/1 and Corr.1 (see annex I).

C. Report of the Board on its twenty-seventh special session

(Agenda item 4)

15. The Trade and Development Board authorized the President and Rapporteur to finalize the report on its twenty-seventh special session after the conclusion of the meeting.

D. Closing of the session

16. The session was closed by Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan) and the decision was adopted by the Board (see chapter I).

Annex I

Agenda for the twenty-seventh special session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Venue of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2016
3. Presidency of the Trade and Development Board
4. Report of the Board on its twenty-seventh special session

Annex II

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Angola
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Central African Republic
Chad
China
Côte d'Ivoire
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Lesotho
Malaysia
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Myanmar
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
Thailand
Togo
United States of America
Zambia

2. The following observer attended the session:

State of Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

European Union

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

4. The following non-governmental organization was represented at the session:

General category

Ingénieurs du Monde

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* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XXVII)/INF.1.